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REMARKS

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the subject application. Applicants request reconsideration of the subject application based on the following remarks.

Claims 1-3, 8-11, 13-15, 19-22, 24, 40-42, 46-52, 54, 56-64, 104-106, 108, 110, and 111 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1, 13, 24, 42, 46, 47, 49, 51, 54, 56, 58, 59, 61, 63, 64, 104-106, 108, and 111 have been amended and claims 4-7, 12, 16-18, 23, 25-38, 43-45, 53, 55, 65-103, 107, and 109 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been introduced by the instant amendments. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter cancelled from the instant application in one or more continuation applications. The rejection of the instantly claimed subject matter will be addressed upon representation of the claims.

Claims 28-38, 56-57, 59-60, and 80 are objected to as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim should refer to other claims in the alternative only and/or cannot depend from any other multiple dependent claim.

Applicants traverse the objection.

Claims 27, 28, and 80, as originally presented, and claims 42, 43, 49, and 51, as currently amended, comprise the language "any one of claims 25 through 27" which clearly refers to claims 25, 26, and 27 in the alternative. Thus, claims 27, 28, 42, 43, 49, 51, and 80 comply with the multiple dependent claim format required by 27 C.F.R. 1.75(c) and set forth in MPEP §608.01(n)(I)(A) and the objection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-3, 5-22, and 55-76 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being allegedly

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anticipated by Suzuki (U.S. Patent 6,399,669).

Claims 1 and 13 have been amended to include the language of claims 4 and 16 respectively, which claims were indicated by the Examiner to be allowable if rewritten in independent format.

As the office action is understood, claims 55-76 were held anticipated by Suzuki because of the language recited at column 6, line 50 to column 7, line 31 with particular attention drawn to column 7, lines 28-31. Moreover, the office action appears to take the untenable position that the Suzuki patent is anticipatory prior art for any polyimide aerogel based on the Suzuki's indication that other starting materials may be used as compound "a" and "b".

Suzuki neither teaches nor suggests polyimide aerogels prepared by condensation of an aliphatic diamine or a di(aminoalkyl)terminated polysiloxane diamine or the process of preparing such a polyimide.

Suzuki recites a variety of aromatic diamines for use in polyimide resin formation without reciting that aliphatic diamines may be substituted. Moreover, Suzuki does not teach that such a substitution would be desirable.

Therefore, Suzuki does not enable one of ordinary skill in the art to prepare such polyimide aerogels. Thus, Suzuki does not support an anticipation rejection of the instantly amended claims.

Thus, for at least the reasons cited herein Suzuki fails to teach the polyimide aerogels of claim 54, the process of making polyimide aerogels of claim 1 or the process of making carbon aerogels of claim 13. Claims 2, 3, 8-11, 14, 15, 19-22, 24, 40-42, 46-52, 54, 56-64, 105, and 110 depend from claim 1, 13, 104, 106, 108, or 111 and are therefore also patentable over Suzuki.

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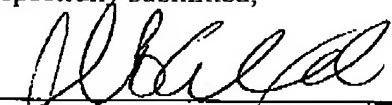
Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-3, 8-11, 13-15, 19-22, 24, 40-42, 46-52, 54, 56-64, 104-106, 108, 110, and 111, as amended, is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks. This case is believed to be in condition for immediate allowance. Applicant respectfully requests early consideration and allowance of the subject application.

If for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. **04-1105**.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss any of the amendments and/or remarks made herein, the undersigned agent would appreciate the opportunity to do so.

Respectfully submitted,

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